

The optional complete set of "clean" claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3) is attached hereto as Appendix B.

C1 6. (Amended) A method for manufacturing ligneous material, the method comprising:

preparing first wood fibers which are acetylated with a first degree of acetylation, and second wood fibers which are not acetylated, wherein said first degree of acetylation measured in weight percent gain is 7% or greater; and

binding a first amount of said first wood fibers and a second amount of said second wood fibers with a binder to form a composite,

wherein said binder comprises polyisocyanate and a thermosetting resin, the content of said polyisocyanate is 50% by weight or greater with respect to the a amount of said binder, and wherein the average degree of acetylation measured in weight percent gain of said composite is 7 to 18%.